

Parent and student question and answer booklet

Religious Studies

Paper 1



Home revision question and answer booklet

The purpose of this booklet is to support your child with their revision for their GCSE examination.

This booklet is a summary of all the content that your child needs to know and will assist them with regards to preparation for the subject knowledge that they need to apply in the examination. Although the booklet is by no means a guarantee, it will make a significant contribution to their success.

This booklet should be used as a question and answer test booklet so that you can help coach your child into answering content correctly with accuracy. Ideally questions should be worked through at random and use a priority red, amber, green system to prioritise areas to work on.

This booklet is the **minimum**/basic amount of work that your child needs to complete based on the knowledge that they need to have.

I hope that you enjoy using this booklet to help check your child's understanding of the topics that they have completed. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact a link within the department using the following email address lpearson@whickhamschool.org

Thank you and good luck from the Humanities Faculty.

In RE the examinations will cover the following areas:

Paper 1: Religion

Christian beliefs
Christian practices
Buddhist beliefs
Buddhist practices

Paper 2: Themes

A: Relationships and Families
B: Religion and Life
D: Religion, peace and conflict
E: Crime and punishment

How to answer the questions

Each section will have exactly the same format of a 1 mark, 2 mark, 4 mark, 5 mark and 12 mark question. This means that for each exam paper, students will complete four of each question type. Structuring answers properly plays a big role in your child's final grade. Without getting this right, they will struggle to gain top marks.

1 mark= tick the correct answer.

2 marks= give two simple points.

4 marks= give two developed (well-explained) points.

5 marks= give two developed points and one teaching or quotation.

12 marks= give one paragraph agreeing with the statement (*approximately two developed points and one teaching or quotation*), another paragraph disagreeing with the statement (*approximately two developed points and one teaching or quotation*) and one conclusion (*giving their overall decision and a reason why*).

Revision tips:

Memory is engaged when students are required to think.

Do not:

Simply read over the material. This will not help you remember it.

Highlight lots of text, this gives you a feeling that you are learning it when in fact you are not.

Type up lots of notes.

Revise for hours at a time on the same topic.

Do:

Transform the notes.

Create diagrams

Create pictures to represent the material.

Produce flashcards. The process of doing this helps you to learn it.

Test yourself using your flash cards.

Get others to test you using the flash cards.

Prioritise - chose the three key points to learn for a given topic.

Go through exemplar answers given in class and learn the rules of how to approach each question.

Resources:

All students have knowledge organisers, these cover all of the key facts and can be used to create the material suggested above.

Students will have access to a Christianity textbook each which will cover the key areas of the Christianity topic and the whole of paper 2. Students will also have a PDF copy of the Buddhism textbook to support their revision for the remaining sections in paper 1.

Buddhism: Section 1 – Beliefs

1. What are the Three Marks of Existence? What does each mean?

Anicca
Anatta
Dukkha

2. What does each mean?

Anicca – everything is constantly changing. Anatta – there is no permanent self. Dukkha – all is suffering.

3. What is ‘dependent arising’?

The causal links between events; the idea that everything is caused by something else; rebirth is part of such a chain.

4. What are the five skandhas?

Five elements that make up the anatta (physical form, sensations/feelings, perception, mental formations, awareness/consciousness).

5. What is another name for the Skandhas?

The 5 five aggregates

6. How can it be said that the skandhas explain anatta?

Because skandhas are always changing so the anatta cannot be a fixed or permanent self – there is nothing that does not change.

7. Explain sunyata.

Emptiness; cease attachment and craving and thus achieve enlightenment.

8. How does sunyata explain anatta?

Because the truth is emptiness, i.e. there is no permanent self, so it is non-attachment, including to the idea of a self, hence anatta.

9. Why do Buddhists believe it is possible for everyone to become Buddha?

All have Buddha nature; all can focus on the path to enlightenment in this or future lifetime; all have as many lifetimes as is necessary to attain enlightenment (no limit to attempts).

10. What is the human name of the Buddha?

Siddhartha Gotama

11. What dreams and prophecies suggested Siddhartha was special?

Mother dreamt of white elephant whose tusk pierced her side; Asita (holy man) predicted he would be either a great leader or a great holy man.

12. What were the Four Sights?

Illness; old age; death; holy man

13. Why did Siddhartha’s father not want him to see the Four Sights?

If he saw the Four Sights, he would become a holy man as per the prophecy. His father wanted him to be a great ruler so needed him not to see the Four Sights.

14. What are the Four Noble Truths?

Dukkha (the truth of suffering), samudaya (the truth of the cause of suffering), nirodha (the truth of the end of suffering) and magga (the truth of the path leading to the end of suffering)

15. Explain what the Four Noble Truths mean.

First – there is suffering; Second – suffering is because of craving; Third – end craving, end suffering; Fourth – the way to end suffering, the Noble Eightfold Path.

16. Explain how belief in the Four Noble Truths might influence a Buddhist in their daily lives.

Affects the way they respond to suffering that they meet, e.g. accept their own, help others; might make them follow the Noble Eightfold Path (more closely); recognising that all things pass (i.e. are impermanent), then all bad times will pass.

17. What is the Eightfold Path?

Eight aspects that Buddhists practice and live by in order to achieve enlightenment.

18. What is the threefold way?

The three sections of the Eightfold path: ethics (sila), meditation (Samadhi) and wisdom (panna)

19. Name all sections of the Eightfold Path and briefly explain what they mean.

1. Right speech: speaking truthfully in a helpful, positive way; avoiding lying or gossiping about others.
2. Right action: behaving in a peaceful, ethical way; avoiding acts such as stealing, harming others or overindulging in sensual pleasures.
3. Right livelihood: earning a living in a way that doesn't harm others, for example not working for groups that exploit people or harm animals.
4. Right effort: putting effort into meditation, in particular thinking positively and freeing yourself from negative emotions and thoughts.
5. Right mindfulness: becoming fully aware of yourself and the world around you; having a clear sense of your own feelings and thoughts.
6. Right concentration: developing the mental concentration and focus that is required to meditation.
7. Right understanding: understanding the Buddha's teachings, particularly about the Four Noble Truths.
8. Right intention: having the right approach and outlook to follow the Eightfold Path; being determined to follow the Buddhist path with a sincere attitude.

20. What was the Buddha's ascetic life?

living a simple life with few pleasures or possessions

21. Why did the Buddha give up on his ascetic life?

It did not help him end suffering and he nearly died by starving himself

22. What types of things did he do during his ascetic life?

Harmed himself, sat next to a fire in the midday sun, slept in the forest and was frightened, starved himself

23. Having lived a life of luxury and the ascetic life what had the Buddha learnt about how to live?

Live according to the middle way

24. What is the Middle Way?

To live between the 2 extremes, live having just enough, e.g. money, food

25. What is enlightenment?

The gaining of true knowledge and escaping the cycle of Samsara

26. What did the Buddha learn during his enlightenment?

1. Knowledge of all his previous lives (rebirth)
2. The cycle of Samsara - the repeated cycle of life, death and rebirth
3. The law of Karma - rebirth is dependent upon their actions
4. He understood why suffering happens and how to overcome it

27. What is Dharma

The Buddha's teachings

28. What are the 3 refuges

1. Dharma - the Buddha's teachings
2. The Sangha - Buddhist monks and nuns and the Buddhist community
3. The Buddha

29. What does the word 'refuge' mean?

Place of safety

30. Give a teaching about the 3 refuges

"To the Buddha for refuge I go, to the Dharma for refuge I go, to the Sangha for refuge I go"

31. Explain what this teaching means

When in need of help or safety a Buddhist can go to the Buddha, his teachings or the community of Buddhists

32. What are the 3 poisons?

greed, hatred and ignorance. The main causes of suffering

33. What are the 2 main types of Buddhism

Theravada and Mahayana

34. What is a Bodhisattva?

For Mahayana Buddhists someone who has become enlightened but chooses to remain in the cycle of samsara to help others achieve enlightenment

35. Give a Buddhist teaching that supports the concept of the Bodhisattva

No man left behind

36. What does this teaching mean?

That all Buddhists should be supported in achieving enlightenment

37. What is an Arhat?

For Theravada Buddhists someone who has become enlightened

38. What is Pureland Buddhism?

a Mahayana form of Buddhism based on the belief of Amitabha Buddha

39. What is the most important Buddhist practice in Pureland Buddhism?

Reciting Amitabha Buddha's name

40. What is the main difference between the focus of Pureland Buddhism and other forms?

In other forms of Buddhism the focus is for a Buddhist to perform good actions whilst in Pureland it is to worship Amitabha e.g recite his name. It is believed by many that it is easier to gain enlightenment in Pureland Buddhism for this reason.

Buddhism: Section 2 – Practices

1. What is karma? How does it bind us?

Karma - action. We are bound by it because every action we carry out has a consequence which can have an impact in this lifetime or a later one.

2. What is rebirth? How does it link to karma?

Rebirth - idea of being born into a new lifetime at the end of each life. Karmic actions will generate the new life and its opportunities (and our ability to take them).

3. What are karuna?

Karuna - compassion

4. What is compassion?

feeling concerned for the suffering of other people and wanting to relieve their suffering

5. What is metta?

metta - loving kindness.

6. What is puja?

Puja - worship.

7. Give 2 examples of Buddhist worship

Chanting and mantra recitation

8. What do Buddhists chant at puja?

Key scriptures

9. What are mantras?

Set phrases, short statements of belief, e.g. om mani padme hum.

10. What is a mala?

Set of 108 prayer beads

11. Why is it used?

Used to focus in prayer/ meditation.

12. What is meditation?

Focusing the mind in mindfulness, or focusing on understanding religious truths.

13. Why do Buddhists meditate?

Part of Noble Eightfold Path; to copy Buddha; to attain understanding and/or enlightenment; health reasons.

14. What is the difference between samatha and vipassana?

Samatha is mindfulness; vipassana is wisdom/ understanding truths. Need to master samantha before being able to do vipassana.

15. What is a temple?

A place Buddhists come together to practice

16. What is a gompa?

A hall or building where Buddhists meditate

17. What is a stupa?

A small building that contains holy relics

18. What is a shrine used for?

It provides Buddhists with a focal point for meditation

19. What is a Buddha Rupa?

A statue of the Buddha

20. What is a vihara?

A monastery - where Buddhist monks and nuns live

21. What is deity visualisation?

The meditator focuses upon someone who has become enlightened e.g. their qualities

22. Why do Buddhists do this?

It may help them to gain these qualities and understand them

23. What happens during a Theravada funeral?

- little money is spent on it
- money is donated to a worthy cause
- A shrine may be set up displaying a picture of the deceased
- Monks often attend the funeral
- The deceased may be cremated or buried
- Family members help to lift the coffin

24. What happens in a 'sky burial'? (Tibetan tradition)

- the body is left in a high place as a gift to the vultures

25. Why is this done?

In mountainous countries that are short of firewood and the ground is often frozen it is difficult to dispose of the body. This is seen as practical and generous. It may produce good Karma as it helps keep another life alive.

26. What is Wesak?

A Theravada festival that celebrates the Buddha's birth, enlightenment and death

27. How is it celebrated?

- homes are lit up with candles
- offerings are made to the Buddha and monks e.g. food, flowers
- The monks lead meditation and sermons that focus upon the Buddha's life and enlightenment
- In some countries caged birds and animals are released as a symbol of freedom

28. What is Parinirvana Day?

A Mahayana festival commemorating the Buddha's death

29. How is it celebrated?

- A solemn occasion
- A chance to reflect upon the fact of their own future death and remember friends and family who have recently died
- Impermanence has a real focus for the day
- A retreat may be organised

30. What is a retreat?

A period of time spent away from the everyday life in order to focus on meditation practice

31. What are the 5 Precepts

1. to abstain from taking life (do not harm any living thing)
2. to abstain from taking what is not freely given
3. to abstain from the misuse of the senses or sexual misconduct
4. to abstain from wrong speech
5. to abstain from drugs that cloud the mind

32. Explain the following quote about the 5 precepts:

'As our minds get clearer and clearer, it's not even a matter of breaking or maintaining the precepts; automatically they are maintained'

Buddhists are aiming to simply follow the 5 Precepts without even trying - it just comes to them naturally

33. What are the 6 Perfections?

1. generosity or giving
2. morality
3. patience
4. energy
5. meditation
6. wisdom

34. What are the 3 different types of generosity?

1. give material goods such as food, clothes and money
2. give protection from fear
3. give the Dharma - the Buddha's teachings

35. Explain why a Buddhist would need to show patience

- A Bodhisattva shows patience with those they are trying to help
- Buddhists must also endure personal suffering as this is part of the 4 Noble Truths

- Showing compassion to those who show anger towards them

36. What is an unskilful action?

A bad action or behaviour

37. What is skilful?

A good, ethical action or behaviour

38. Why are mantras and chanting used?

To help a Buddhist to focus their mind

Christianity: Section 1 – Beliefs and teachings

1. Give three Christian denominations.

Catholic / Protestant / Orthodox / Church of England / Anglican etc.

2. How might Christians describe the nature of God?

Omnipotent (all-powerful), omnibenevolent (all-loving), omniscient (all-knowing), transcendent (beyond the earth), just (fair), immanent (present within earth).

3. What is meant by the Trinity?

Christian idea of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

4. Why is it important for Christians?

Basic belief of Christianity; makes Christianity distinct as a religion; aids understanding of God.

5. How did creation occur in Genesis 1?

God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh.

6. In John 1, it is stated “in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God”. What is meant by “the Word”?

Most Christians agree that the Word is referring to God the Son (Jesus).

7. What is meant by the incarnation?

God becoming flesh as Jesus, and taking on a human form.

8. Give a biblical example of Jesus’ incarnation.

The birth narratives, the garden of Gethsemane, crucifixion.

9. What is meant by ‘blasphemy’?

It is a religious offence which includes claiming to be God.

10. How does Jesus’ crucifixion influence Christians today?

It gives them confidence that if they accept Jesus’ sacrifice, sin can’t destroy their lives because God forgives those who faithfully ask for forgiveness. They might believe suffering is a part of life, just as it was part of Jesus’ life. They believe God understands suffering as He has also experienced it.

11. Give an example of Jesus showing forgiveness.

“Forgive them father...” (at crucifixion), forgiving Judas.

12. Give two solutions to the problem of evil and suffering?

God allows evil so we can learn responsibility; it is a punishment for misbehaviour; it is a test; needed so we can appreciate good; free will.

13. Explain two ways in which a belief in evil and suffering influences Christians today.

Makes them respond positively to help others; look for outcomes of evil to be able to help; helps appreciate goodness; accept issues in own life so that they are managed better.

14. How does belief in Judgement Day affect people in their lives today?

If I believe I will be judged after death, I will behave well, or I will worship God, as I want to go to heaven; means I will actively help others to gain good merit.

15. How might the existence of heaven and/or hell influence Christians in their lives?

Heaven encourages good behaviour; hell motivates against bad behaviour; allows us to see that bad people will get their just rewards eventually; good people who seem to get no luck will get their real reward eventually.

16. Give two reasons why Christians might disagree about judgement.

Might see it as literal – judged then hell/heaven forever; whereas others might see hell as an opportunity to be purified, so not forever. They might believe there is no hell, just not a resurrection for the wicked, so judgement does not happen. They might disagree because of what they have been taught by their Christian denomination.

17. Explain what Catholics believe about purgatory

Purgatory is the intermediate state where souls are cleansed in order to get into heaven.

18. What do Christians mean by the word resurrection?

Being brought back to life by God/Jesus; can be a physical resurrection or a spiritual one.

19. Describe the events surrounding Jesus' resurrection.

Jesus was placed in a tomb late on Friday afternoon. Early on Sunday morning, some of Jesus' followers went to the tomb to anoint the body and prepare it for a proper burial. Mary Magdalene was one of the followers present, but other details vary between the gospels. The body of Jesus was nowhere to be found. A man/ men told the women that Jesus had risen from the dead and they should pass the message on to his followers.

20. Why did Jesus have to die?

As a sacrifice for the sins of humans; to break the barrier between God and humans; to open heaven to humans; because of conflict with the Jewish authorities; to fulfil God's plans.

21. Why is the resurrection significant for Christians today?

It shows the power of good over evil. By accepting Jesus, they can also be resurrected in some way and have no need to fear death. It assures Christians that God will forgive their sins, allowing them to become closer to God in this life and beyond. Without the resurrection, there would be no Christian faith.

22. Why is the ascension significant for Christians today?

It shows that Jesus is with God. it paves the way for the coming of the Holy Spirit to provide comfort and guidance.

23. What is salvation?

Humans being saved by the death of Jesus to regain eternal life with God

24. What are the two different types of salvation?

Salvation through good works, salvation through grace.

25. How do Christians believe salvation can come about?

Salvation through good works- the Old Testament makes it clear that a person achieves salvation by having faith in God and obeying God's law.

Salvation through grace- salvation is given by God through faith in Jesus. It is not earned or deserved but it is a gift for the faithful.

26. Explain the concept of original sin.

This is the idea that humans are born with an in-built tendency to do wrong. Adam and Eve sinned against God by not following His instructions. They ate the apple from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Once they had done this, they became aware of sin through their own sinful action. This awareness is now shared by all humans descended from them. This resulted in a separation from God.

27. What is meant by atonement?

Restoring the relationship between people and God through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

28. What is mass?

Ceremony, also called Eucharist, in which the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus is celebrated using bread and wine.

Christianity: Section 2 – Practices

1. Define liturgical and non-liturgical worship.

Liturgical worship is a service that follows a set structure or ritual. Non-liturgical worship is a service that does not follow a set structure or ritual.

2. Define informal worship.

This is a type of non-liturgical worship, sometimes spontaneous or charismatic in nature.

3. Why might liturgical worship be important for Christians?

The people receive forgiveness from God through the actions of the priest. They receive the living presence of Jesus in the Holy Communion. Bible readings follow the Christian calendar and teach Christian history and faith across the Old and New Testament and Paul's letters. There is a worldwide set order of service that is familiar to all. The ritual has been passed down through generations, giving a sense of tradition.

4. Why might non-liturgical and informal worship be important for Christians?

Faith is expressed in a variety of ways. Holy Communion, for example, may be celebrated in different ways. Christians can share their personal interpretations of the Bible. People can take an active part

in church by praying aloud or speaking without formal training. The service may have an emotional impact, with a feeling of personal revelation from God.

5. Why is the Lord's prayer important to Christians?

It gives them a pattern for how to pray as it combines praising God and asking for one's own needs. It reminds Christians that they must forgive in order to be forgiven. It reminds them that God is the father of the whole community. It is often used in worship and tends to be prayed out loud by all members of the congregation together.

6. What is a sacrament? Name two.

A ceremony in which God's blessing is imparted. Baptism; confirmation; Eucharist; marriage; ordination; reconciliation; healing.

7. What is the difference between infant and believers' baptism?

In infant baptism, babies and young children become members of the Church, where promises are taken on their behalf by adults. The infant is freed from sin and introduced to the saving love of God and the support of the Christian community.

In believers' baptism, people old enough to understand the ceremony and willing to live a Christian life are initiated into the Church by immersion in water.

8. Why are sacraments important?

Bring blessing of God; sign of commitment to faith; sign of belonging to the community; traditional.

9. What is Holy Communion?

It is otherwise known as Eucharist, and it is a service of thanksgiving in which the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus are celebrated using bread and wine.

10. Why is Holy Communion important for Christians?

They believe they receive God's grace by joining in the great sacrifice of Jesus. A past event becomes a present reality. It brings the community together and strengthens their commitment to the faith.

11. Give two contrasting ways in which Holy Communion is celebrated.

The Divine Liturgy in the Orthodox Church- this service recreates heaven on earth. Much of the service happens behind a screen called an iconostasis which represents the divide between earth and heaven. The priest passes through iconostasis using the Royal Doors. The priest receives bread and wine baked by members of the congregation and chooses one loaf to be consecrated.

The Catholic Mass- it begins with a greeting from the priest, and prayers and penance and praise. Offerings of bread and wine are brought to the altar. The priest prays over the bread and wine. People say the Lord's prayer and give a sign of peace to each other. They come forward to receive communion.

The Anglican Church- It is almost identical to the Catholic Church service, but the 'peace' is shared at a different point in the service, before the offerings of bread and wine are brought to the altar.

12. What is a pilgrimage? Name a Christian place.

A sacred journey to a sacred place. Lourdes/Iona/ Jerusalem/Rome.

13. Why is pilgrimage important?

Sense of commitment; walking in the footsteps of someone great; show faith; spiritual growth and renewal; might bring healing.

14. Why is Lourdes a place of pilgrimage?

It is dedicated to Mary, mother of Jesus. In 1858 a young girl called Bernadette had visions of Mary in a cave near the river. She prayed the rosary with Mary looking lovingly upon her. Mary told Bernadette to dig for a spring of water, which was discovered to have healing properties. Thousands of people visit each year and recite the rosary and bathe in the water. It is claimed that 67 miracles and over 6000 other cures have taken place there.

15. Why is Iona a place of pilgrimage?

St Columba, an Irish missionary who brought Christianity to Scotland, established a monastic community there. It is the home of the Iona community and it is dedicated to the Virgin Mary. People think it is a 'thin place' where the veil between the spiritual and physical world is thin. It feels like a place where nature reveals God's infinite power and presence.

16. Name a Christian festival. Say what it celebrates.

Easter (death and resurrection of Jesus)/ Christmas (birth of Jesus).

17. How does the Church support the local community?

With food banks, street pastors, medical care, mental health care, job seeking support etc.

18. Name a Christian charity and some work they do for the community.

The Trussell Trust: provide food banks with emergency food, help and support for people in the UK.
The Oasis Project: a community hub in Plymouth that has an internet cafe, creative courses, job and training opportunities and a food bank.

Parish Nursing: a Christian charity which supports whole person healthcare, promoting wellbeing in body, mind and spirit. They diagnose early signs of health issues, give training for volunteers and help alleviate loneliness.

19. What are mission and evangelism?

Mission is the duty to go and spread the word of God. Evangelism is spreading the word of God with the intention to convert and to grow the Church.

20. Give a religious teaching that supports evangelism.

"Go and make disciples of all nations"

21. Why do Christians evangelise?

Jesus told them to; to bring the Christian message to more people; to grow the Church; to show how teachings are relevant in the modern world.

22. What strategies are used to encourage Church growth?

Evangelists seek to convert people to Christianity. Spread the messages of the faith, invite people to Christian meetings, advertise and use media, arrange social events.

23. What is reconciliation?

Repairing the relationship between God and believers or between two groups in conflict.

24. How might the worldwide Church promote reconciliation with God?

The Corrymeela community (a group in Northern Ireland) aims to repair a believer's relationship with God after the Troubles. They may conduct peace talks, mediate between different groups, agree steps for moving forward.

Desmond Tutu arranged peace talks between black and white communities during Apartheid in South Africa.

26. What is persecution?

Ill-treatment because of prejudice which is ongoing, not limited to one incident.

27. How have Christians fought persecution?

Standing up for the rights of the persecuted; campaigning for laws to be changed; being role models; supporting victims; raising awareness of issues; educating; training people to work with the persecuted and funding projects to help them.

28. Outline some work by the charities Christian Aid and Tearfund.

Christian Aid- the official relief agency for 41 denominations in Britain and Ireland. They encourage sustainable development, stop poverty and provide emergency relief in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, South America and the Caribbean.

Tearfund- set up in response to terrible famine in Nigeria in 1968. They travel to places of need and respond to disasters, helping vulnerable communities transform out of poverty. They hold fundraising and awareness events.